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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2166**

**PATENT**  
5681-11700/P7517

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/087,234

Filed: March 1, 2002

Inventors:

Ajay Kumar

Hanumanthu Rao Susarla

Prakash Khemani

Title: LOCK MECHANISM FOR  
A DISTRIBUTED DATA  
SYSTEM

Examiner: Hwang, Joon H.

Group/Art Unit: 2166

Atty. Dkt. No: 5681-11700

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Printed Name

*[Signature]*

Signature

June 16, 2006

Date

**RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION OF APRIL 21, 2006**

**Mail Stop AF**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Action of April 21, 2006, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as listed below.